

September 15, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson,

The 2014 Ebola outbreak is one of the largest and most devastatingly ever, and the first in West Africa. According to the World Health Organization, more than 4,400 people in West Africa, including four Americans, have contracted the Ebola virus since March 2014 and nearly 2,300 have died. Left untreated, public health experts estimate the virus could spread to nearly 250,000 individuals by November of 2014.

As outlined in your Department's 2014 Homeland Security Quadrennial, DHS has vital missions in countering biological threats and hazards, including: information sharing and analysis; threat and risk awareness; biosurveillance integration and detection; technical forensic analysis to support attribution; preparedness coordination; incident management, response, and continuity planning; critical infrastructure security and resilience coordination; and border management. In light of these responsibilities, the findings of the September 8, 2014, DHS Inspector General (OIG) report entitled, "DHS Has Not Effectively Managed Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment and Antiviral Medical Countermeasures" are particularly troubling

The exponential increase in Ebola infections and deaths further accelerates the necessity to ensure all programs related to surveillance and preparedness of biological threats are properly managed, resourced, and synchronized within each agency and across the federal government. In order to verify that the Department is taking the necessary steps, I respectfully request you provide us with the following information:

1. What surveillance measures have the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended DHS implement at each U.S. port of entry and what measures have been taken?
2. What training and/or education has DHS provided to employees across the Department to appropriately screen and identify travelers at risk, or showing symptoms, of Ebola?
3. What steps has DHS taken to raise threat and risk awareness within the Department and elsewhere within the federal government?

4. What steps has DHS taken to address the concerns raised in the OIG report regarding personal protective equipment and antiviral medical countermeasures (MCM) for a pandemic response?
5. What interagency processes or working groups is DHS participating in to address the government's response to the Ebola outbreak?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I would appreciate your response as soon as possible. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Brent Bombach of my staff at (202)-224-3353.